

National Park Operational Highlights for Guam and CNMI

War in the Pacific National Historical Park and American Memorial Park

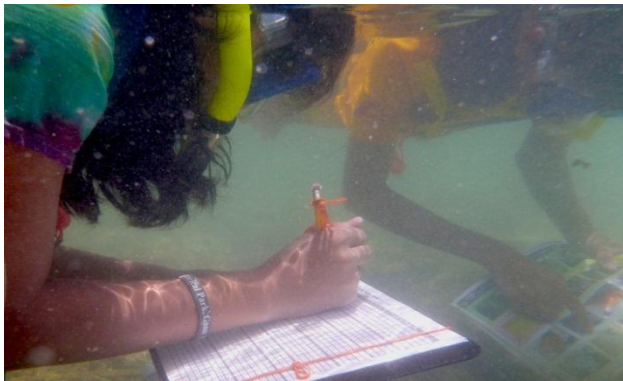
Briefing Paper to Highlight Current Operations and Initiatives

Prepared for the Senior Plenary Session of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas

February 24, 2015

National Park Highlights for both Guam and CNMI

- Both parks remembered the 70th anniversary of WWII on the islands with commemorative events. First person accounts from WWII veterans, their families, and local war survivors along with the public recounted the sacrifices and hardships they endured during the war that helped them to survive.
- Award winning education programs were presented by partner Pacific Historic Parks and NPS rangers resulting in 3,213 third grade to high school youth and 263 teachers and school administrators served on Guam in 2014. On Saipan, our inaugural Ridge to Reef education program served 31 youth.
- Ranger led programming and events on Guam served 3,300 park visitors.



Guam students complete Giant Clam survey



Guam students mix fun and education

- Parks at both locations are well maintained valuable assets to the local communities, hosting events, activities, and recreational opportunities.
- International visitors mostly from Asia who speak languages other than English are the majority of our park visitors. Visitor Centers, many signs, and park information is available in multiple languages. For many the experience at our parks will be an introductory experience to the US National Parks. In 2014 76% of visitors to the T.Stell Newman Visitor Center are international visitors with 53% originating from Japan. At American Memorial Park 84% of visitors originate from China.

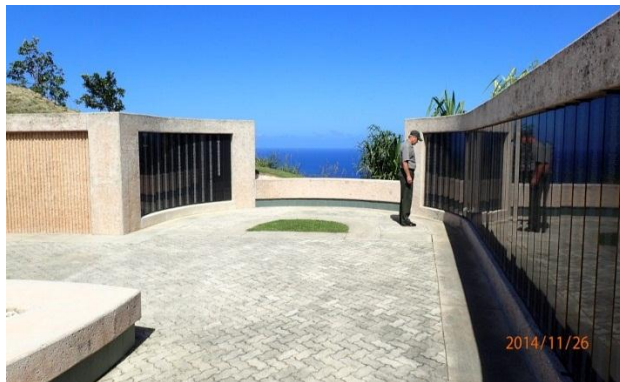
- Both parks are using modern digital media, Facebook, Twitter, to connect with the next generation of park explorers and supporters. Both park's films are presented in several languages, and visitor center displays are interactive and ADA accessible.
- Standard park scientific sampling and research continued as scheduled, serving as a base for future decisions on Guam and Saipan.

Guam specific Highlights

- NPS staff continued full participation in military buildup public hearings and agency reviews.
- The Memorial Wall at the Asan Bay Overlook was reconstructed by a local contractor following major theft and vandalism. The wall includes 17,771 names of American servicemen who died while liberating Guam and Guam citizens who were killed or suffered during the occupation from 1941 to 1944.
- War in the Pacific National Historical Park has become a public venue for discussion, education and control about damaging invasive species including the Coconut Rhino Beetle and Little Fire Ants. Balancing our need to eradicate these invasive species with public health and environmental protection, we have used treatment options that are gentle to both.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands specific Highlights

- American Memorial Park staff hosted a successful Congressional delegation visit.
- Erosion at Micro Beach continues to be a very visible feature that brings Climate Change and natural processes forward for public discussion.
- NPS staff continued full participation in agency reviews of military training proposals for Tinian and Pagan.
- The public tennis courts were completely refinished by a local contractor.



Completed Memorial Wall, Guam



Newly refinished tennis courts, Saipan

In the near future

- We look for community involvement with parks as the NPS Centennial approaches in 2016. On Guam park staff will be an important part of the Festival of Pacific Arts (FestPac) in 2016.
- A Congressionally directed study of Rota has begun with preliminary background research to determine suitability of Rota becoming a National Park site.
- Kuentai USA group are beginning field research in the park on Guam that may result in a request to return buried human remains to Japan.

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